



North Central Beekeepers Assoc., Inc. • P.O. Box 294 Brainerd, MN 56401

A Non-Profit Educational Organization For Beekeepers.

North Central Beekeepers Association

February 2013 Newsletter

**Meeting 7:00 pm. 2-18-2013 Northland Arboretum, Brainerd, Mn.
56401**

Formic acid mite control in (your) honey bee colonies

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**Attention; If you have not paid your 2013 dues this is the last
newsletter you will receive**

North Central Beekeepers Newsletter February, 2013

Meeting 7:00pm. February 18.2013 at the Northland Arboretum, Brainerd, Mn.
56401

Serving committee; Griffith and Storbakken

Demonstration; Burt Scripture will try to explain the usage of FORMIC ACID in your hives for varroa mite control. With additional benefits and more safety than the previous method.

ALERT; Morrison County board of Supervisors has voted 4/1 to allow aerial spraying for forest tent caterpillars/army worms in 2013. The forest tent caterpillar is a cyclic pest of trees causing no actual harm only perception. Caterpillars eat the leaves off poplar ,basswood and some oak trees that regrow with no lasting damage. The entire story may be read in the February3, 2013 edition of the Morrison County Record. www.mcrecord.com; jennie.zeitler@mcrecord.com .

Bee Keeping Class; Larry Chismar and Shawn Strong are offering a beginning beekeeping class at the Brainerd Northland Arboretum February 23. Contact the Arb. To register. Please preregister because last year there was so many interested that the class has to be closed and an additional class was held later. PLEASE PREREGISTER!!

Brushy Mountain Bee Farm has a 4 part webinar for beginning beekeepers. The webinars are 2 hours on March 5, 7, 12 and 14 and must be individually signed up for. They start at 5:00 pm. And go to 7:00 or a little longer. There is a provision for questions thru your computer. If interested google Brushy Mountain Bee Farm home page for more info and sign up.

Brushy Mountain also has a webinar with Dr. Larry Conner on why you should always start with 2 1/2 hives not just one. To register www2.gotomeeting.com/register/315176098 this presentation is on February 20, 2013 5:00to6:00 pm. Central time. Dr. Conner is an entertaining speaker.

Exerpt from Geo. Imrie's Pink pages. We are not in Maryland please adjust!!

**It is FEBRUARY and COLD. Are your bees ALIVE?
or
How much HELP have YOU been since August?**

Never known for being nice or complimentary to EVERYONE (like politicians campaigning for votes and money), my thoughts are to TEACH, EDUCATE, INSTRUCT, and INFORM all beeHAVERS and some beeKEEPERS the methods used to be a successful beekeeper in central MARYLAND; and hence, sometimes, I am TOUGH and DEMANDING in order to get your ATTENTION (even MAD) in order to force you to THINK. Being nice lulls you to doze or let your mind agree that everything you do is correct; but being CHALLENGED elevates your adrenaline and puts your mind in high-gear thinking.

With that said, have you INSPECTED your bees in January? Don't give me that crap that it is too cold!

Over and over, we hear the stories,I KNOW that my bees are alive, because I saw them flying in and out of the hive. Too often, your colony is dead, and what you saw was ROBBER bees. You CANNOT tell the colony condition without going INSIDE and inspecting! THAT IS A MUST! Just wait for a day that has a temperature over 55°-60° and open the hive for a quick inspection - SO SIMPLE!

A queen laying in cold January? A young Carniolan queen will start laying in early January, and a young Italian queen might start laying by February 1st. WHY the difference? Southern homes have air conditioning and few furnaces, whereas northern homes have big furnaces and small air conditioners.

The Italian race of bees home territory is southern Italy surrounded by the warm Mediterranean Sea, whereas the home territory of the Carniolan race of bees is at the base of the ALPs in the Carniolan Mountain range in Austria and Yugoslavia (now Croatia and Serbia). Hence, the Carniolan race is geared to flying in cooler weather than the Italian race, and hence starts brood rearing earlier. Isn't Nature WONDERFUL!

Note that word: HEALTHY! Had YOU killed both the tracheal mites and the varroa mites before November? Was your queen less than 2 years old, or preferably less than 1 year old? Did YOU have at least 70 pounds of honey in the colony in November?

Did YOU have an UPPER ENTRANCE to allow HUMIDITY to escape the colony? Was the colony protected from northwest winds? Did the colony SLOPE FORWARD so rain or snow could drain out the front door?

Go ahead, HATE me for saying it; but most winter deaths are caused by INSUFFICIENT food, WEAK hives entering November, forgetting tracheal mite kill in August, and POOR TIMING in varroa mite kill; and You, and I repeat YOU, could have prevented these deaths if you just were better EDUCATED in successful beeKEEPING.

Want ads: Handmade Bee Equipment, Older Equipment Repaired

Gilbert Frank 31979 456th. Ave. Aitkin, Mn. 56431

320-241-0549, 320-292-2452

BEES; New World Carniolin nucs \$ 89.00 no frame trade, available mid May Don Jackson 2056 Co. 17, Pequot Lakes, Mn. 56472

Phone 218-568-8469(please call after dark) (Please note address, Wrong last month)bbs

Bees; Packages, 2# \$65.00 and 3# \$79.00. Delivered to the Northland Arboretum on or about April 10, 2013. Your choice of Minnesota Hygenic, New World Carnolian or Italian queens. Call 320-277-3510 or see Bill at the regular meetings

If you have bee or beekeeping information to share please contact me at 218-352-9202 or burtsbees@brainerd.net

See you February 18 7:00pm. At the ARB.

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Burt: